

news & events

BACKYARD BIRDERS

Birds are one of the most visible signs of wildlife that we see in our Missouri backyards. Does your yard provide the necessary things for a quality bird habitat? Think about your yard as you answer the following questions. *Is there food available?* Proper food is important for birds and can be provided in various ways.



Birds will benefit from bird feeders as well as native plants. When setting up your bird feeder area it can be as simple as placing seed on the ground, purchasing a feeder, or making a feeder out of a plastic bottle. The type of bird seed depends on what you want to attract. **Black oil sunflower seeds** will attract a wide variety of birds like cardinals and blue jays. **White millet** is appealing to doves, sparrows, and juncos. **Niger thistle** will attract goldfinches and purple finches. **Suet cakes** are also good for attracting woodpeckers.

Native trees, shrubs, vines, and flowers not only produce food for birds, but they also provide cover. **Holly, hawthorn, and persimmon** are favorites of cedar waxwings.

Is there water? To increase the popularity of your feeding station furnish water for the birds. The Carolina wren and bluebird are often attracted to feeders that have water access. To view an example of how to incorporate water into your feeder area visit the Discovery Center. We use a solar

powered water bubbler as well as a bird bath.

Does your yard have shelter? Birds need a place to take shelter from predators as well as a place to nest. Shelter can happen in various ways. Planting native bushes, trees, or flowers will provide good cover. Evergreens offer valuable year-round cover. Finally consider creating a brush pile in your yard. The birds will thank you.

Do you have space? When developing your bird feeder area consider the issue of space. Position your feeders away from windows and buildings. Birds benefit from feeders that are placed near trees or bushes. This gives them shelter if a predator is near. If you are just beginning start small and simple.

Whether you are a veteran bird watcher or just a beginner your backyard is valuable to birds. Consider ways to improve the habitat as you enjoy the colorful feathered visitors this winter. To learn more about birds and their habitats visit the Discovery Center or plan on attending “Winter Birds” on Saturday, January 6th.

— Steve Jacobsen



Saturday workshops are funded by a grant from the Water Garden Society of KC

giftshop news



NEW! Echoes of Outdoor Missouri CD

Bring the sounds of outdoor Missouri into your home, car, or office. Featuring a river bluff trek, a close encounter with the prairie-chickens’ haunting mating ritual, a day at Cupola Pond, and a starlight serenade, this sonic tapestry carries you to the unique and delicate natural habitats from which they came. **70 minutes—\$8.00.**



2007 Natural Events Calendar

On sale now!

Anita B. Gorman
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www.kccconservation.com



Anita B. Gorman
Conservation



Discovery Center

WINTER
2007

Wild Bird Alert!



Since the Discovery Center opened five years ago, there have been some interesting and unusual bird sightings here at 47th Street and Troost. We’ve seen bluebirds, green herons, a Cooper’s hawk, cedar waxwings, red-headed woodpeckers and an osprey. The popular adage “If you build it, they will come” has proven true. The birds are surely attracted to the native plantings and reconstructed wetland that we’ve brought back to the city.

Perhaps the most exciting bird sighting happened in November. Horticulturist Matt Bunch was working in the native gardens when he saw a plump bodied bird with a long bill foraging beneath some shrubs. When flushed, its rounded short wings made a startling whirring sound. Matt was sure he had seen the **American woodcock**. Excited to see such an unusual bird at the Discovery Center, he noted where it landed and returned with his camera to snap a few photographs.

The woodcock is a terrestrial shorebird,

usually found foraging for earthworms in woodlands near water or forested floodplains. Also called a “timberdoodle” the bird is more often seen as a migrant in the fall and spring than seen as a summer resident. A woodcock sighting in a rural area is not that unusual, but it is kind of special to find the bird hanging out in the middle of the city. The Discovery Center woodcock was probably a migrant working its way south.

So, while holiday shopping or dining out on the Plaza, stop by for some urban birdwatching. You might be surprised at what flies by.

Wildlife Art Show

Original paintings and illustrations by Missouri Department of Conservation wildlife artist **Mark Raithel** will be on exhibit in the Lewis and Clark Hallway gallery at the Discovery Center from January 20th through March 3rd. Mark’s work has graced the pages of the *Missouri Conservationist* magazine, education posters and books for the past fifteen years.



SPECIAL EVENT! * SATURDAY, JANUARY 27
Wild World of Winter!

Withering away wondering when winter weather will withdraw? Wake up and join the fun at the *Wild World of Winter* special event at the Discovery Center. Special guest Operation Wildlife will present live birds of prey including a barred owl, barn owl, red-tailed hawk and peregrine falcon. Fun, informative exhibits and activities will feature a wintry mix of fly-tying, fire starting, and mammal tracking. Create a native plant centerpiece from ice for your deck or porch. Treat the winter birds with a pinecone feeder or learn about the ice age mammals that once roamed Missouri. Free popcorn and free admission. Hope to see you there!



school programs

HOW TO ENROLL YOUR CLASS

The Discovery Center offers teachers the choice of six workshops to choose for their students. All workshops focus on conservation themes. **Nature's Bounty** examines the ethics of hunting and fishing. **Nature's Garden** features native plantings. **Nature's Aquarium** explores local watersheds. **Exploring the Outdoors** studies the habitats of Missouri's animals. **Nature's Palette** uses art to examine Missouri's trees. **Woodworking for Wildlife** looks at bird habitats as students build bird feeders or nest boxes.

For each of the six workshops, the Discovery Center conservation curriculum includes pre-visit activities. Workshops are designed for a minimum of ten and a maximum of 25 students. To participate, a teacher must attend a two-hour teacher orientation. This training will qualify teachers to bring their students to the Discovery Center for one or two of the conservation workshops described below. The orientation dates are:

Thursday, January 11 5 to 7 p.m.
Thursday, February 8 5 to 7 p.m.
Thursday, March 8 5 to 7 p.m.
Thursday, April 12 5 to 7 p.m.

For reservations through May 2007, call Kathie May at 816-759-7305 ext. 2241 or e-mail Kathleen.May@mdc.mo.gov



Six hands-on workshops from which to choose!

NATURE'S AQUARIUM WORKSHOP

Lewis & Clark on the River (Grades 4–8) Lewis and Clark saw a far different Missouri River than we see today. Step back in time and experience the Big Muddy of 1805. Study the boats used by the expedition and journal about the significance of the Corps of Discovery two centuries later.

Exploring Your Watershed (Grades 4–12) Examine how streams shape the land and how our actions shape the waterways around us. Explore changes on the stream table like channelization of Missouri's namesake river. Interact with the Brush Creek Model to learn about challenging water issues in an urban setting. Assess the water quality in a local stream using live macroinvertebrates.

WOODWORKING FOR WILDLIFE WORKSHOP

Why Do Birds Need Feeders? (Grades 3–6) Discover the recreational and educational value of bird feeders. Feeders provide wild birds a much needed food source that might be missing due to habitat loss or weather. Students will construct either a nest box or feeder while on their field trip.

Birds of Missouri (Grades 6–10) Compare Missouri's landscape and birds during Lewis and Clark's time to the Missouri we know today. Investigate extinct, extirpated, threatened, and exotic species. Evaluate the importance of Missouri forest conservation for sustaining bird populations. Students will construct either a nest box or feeder while on their field trip.

EXPLORING THE OUTDOORS WORKSHOP

What Is It? (Grades 1–3) Use your senses to discover the differences between fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Learn about wildlife habitats, food chains, and how animals defend themselves. While on a field trip, make a scent line, complete the Eggciting touch station, and venture on an outdoor exploration.

Feathered Friends of Missouri (Grades 3–8) Learn about bird identification and behavior as you prepare for your visit to the Discovery Center. Learn how to use a field guide to identify birds, use binoculars on a birdwatching hike, and listen to bird calls.

Mammal Tracking (Grades 3–6) Explore the outdoors and learn about Missouri mammals. Learn about mammal tracks, signs, habitats, and food relationships. Follow a scent line, look for clues on the tracking blanket, and create a sawdust critter footprint during the fieldtrip.

Orienteering (Grades 4–8) Learn to use a compass and develop orienteering skills. Study the instruments used by Lewis & Clark on their expedition. Drills and games will teach students to use a compass to navigate the great outdoors.

On watch from the 1806 replica dugout canoe, is the fourth grade class from Notre Dame di Sion.



Outdoor teacher

news from the education resource center



Teachers invited to prairie mating dance

Every spring, people travel hundreds of miles to witness an amazing natural event taking place on Missouri prairies. It's the ritual mating dance or "booming" of the prairie chickens. As part of the "Teachers Gone Wild" field trip series, the Discovery Center staff will take teachers on an amazing viewing excursion sometime in March or April. If you are interested, contact **Claudine Lamb at 816-759-7305 ext. 2233** or **Claudine.Lamb@mdc.mo.gov**

Apply for an outdoor classroom grant

Cabin fever? Move your classroom out of doors. Let the Missouri Department of Conservation show you how to build an outdoor classroom that not only reinforces the grade level expectations for science but connects to all other disciplines.

Plan an outdoor classroom that can stimulate the study of history with cultural connections, math with real world measurement activities, reading with a storybook garden plot, and art activities. The Missouri Department of Conservation can fund this enterprise. We have \$1000 grants available to build outdoor classrooms that promote interdisciplinary, hands-on

instruction through conservation education in the out-of-doors. **Contact Sally Bell at 816-759-7300 ext. 2238** to learn more.

Connect conservation to the classroom

If you're interested in having a conservation education program come to your classroom to assist in meeting your Science Grade Level Expectations (GLE's), then we have the perfect opportunity for you. We have developed a variety of conservation programs with emphasis on the required GLE's, for example, **Chain Reaction**—the importance of the flow of energy, the roles that wildlife play in sustaining a healthy food chain, and the results if one key component is lacking (*Food Chains EC.2.A.3a-d & EC.2.A.4a-c*). To find out more about having conservation education programs come to your classroom, contact either **Claudine Lamb at 816-759-7305 ext. 2233**, **Claudine.Lamb@mdc.mo.gov** or **Mike Fraser at 816-759-7305 ext. 2236**, **Micheal.Fraser@mdc.mo.gov**



The Outdoor Teacher Resource Center has many conservation education resources for teachers and youth leaders.

TEACHER WORKSHOPS

Project Learning Tree

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2007 5:00–8:00PM & THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2007 5:00–8:00PM (both sessions required for certification)

Project Learning Tree (PLT) is an award-winning environmental education program designed for educators working with students from kindergarten through twelfth grade. PLT uses trees and the forest as a "window" to the natural world, helping students learn about the world around them, their place within that world and their responsibility for it. A \$20 materials fee required. To enroll, contact **Claudine Lamb at 816-759-7305 ext. 2233**.

Discovery Trunks

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2007 4:30–7:30PM

What are Discovery Trunks? These are trunks filled with hands-on teaching tools, video tapes and reference materials to assist in the instructions of conservation for children. Who may use Discovery Trunks? Teachers and youth leaders who attend a trunk workshop are eligible. To enroll and become a certified Discovery Trunk user, contact **Claudine Lamb at 816-759-7305 ext. 2233** or **Claudine.Lamb@mdc.mo.gov**. The workshop will be held at Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center in Blue Springs, Missouri. **Dinner Provided.**

Conservation Posters and Activity Books Available for Educators

Even the best curriculum or lesson plan can be enhanced with a high quality poster, booklet or classroom activity. The Department offers lots of instructional resources and teaching aids on a variety of conservation topics and skills. Whether you teach preschool or senior high, home school or work with youth groups, you're sure to find educational resources that will enhance your classes or programs. The *Conservation Materials Request Form* lists free publications available to Missouri educators. Call 816-759-7300 to find out more from your Conservation Education Consultant.



Deciduous Hollies

Winter in the landscape is often uneventful. The colorful excitement of flowers and foliage has given way to dun brown and dull gray. Sure there are still the evergreens, yews, pines, boxwoods, spruces and junipers. But in our area, native evergreens are hard to come by with the exception of the ubiquitous eastern red cedar and the sporadic populations of the short-leaf pine; these however become large trees. So we must look elsewhere, perhaps towards prairie grasses, many of which are suited quite well for the landscape. Prairie dropseed and little bluestem provide form, motion, and color to the winter landscape. But what about excitement, contrast and the wow factor? Deciduous hollies are the answer.

Many may be familiar with Asian evergreen hollies that adorn homes with their nice tidy hedges and red berries. The deciduous hollies of which I speak are native to Missouri. **Winterberry**, *Ilex verticillata*, is a small to medium

sized shrub that can be found within a few counties south of St. Louis, and throughout much of the eastern deciduous forest of the U.S. It has gained popularity as a landscape plant because of its profusion of red berries produced in the fall and lasting through the winter. There are many horticultural selections of winterberry in the nursery trade. These selections have been made for compact size and berry color. Winterberry makes a great hedge for sun to part shade and likes moist to well drained soils; perhaps a good shrub for a rain garden. Like nearly all hollies, winterberry is dioecious, male and female flowers are bourn on separate plants, therefore a male pollinator

is necessary to produce berries on female plants. Our other native deciduous holly goes by the comely name of **possumhaw**. Possumhaw, *Ilex decidua*, is a large shrub to small tree that can be found throughout the forests of Missouri. In the Kansas City area populations of possumhaw can be found in the hills of Swope Park and along the banks of the Blue River. In the landscape possumhaw does well in sun or shade and can be pruned to tree or shrub form. These hollies not only appeal to our visual aesthetics, but they also provide a food source for many species of birds and small mammals. The berries may not be as appetizing as the fruits of the dogwoods, viburnums, or spicebush, but they do provide nutrition in the late winter months. So whether you are trying to feed the birds or you want a shrub to add color to a gray winter’s day—our deciduous hollies are for you.

— Matt Bunch

Volunteer VanVleck Views the Future

Barbara VanVleck came to the Discovery Center in January of 2005. She believes strongly in what the Missouri Department of Conservation is doing to conserve natural resources and teaching people to understand and respect the needs of wildlife. Her concerns for the loss of wildlife habitat has led her to be one of the faithful volunteers not only at the Discovery Center but at Burr Oak Woods Nature Center. Barb’s goal is to teach children and give them a positive experience with nature so that they will be responsible caretakers for the future.

How does Barb reach these lofty goals? Just take a moment to visit one of the workshops here at the Discovery Center and you can find her at the stream table where students learn about erosion, channelization and the consequences of building on floodplains. Or perhaps she’ll be in another workshop comparing animal characteristics or habitat requirements. Barb can also be found guiding children as they complete their bird feeder and nature print projects. She enjoys seeing the excitement on children’s faces and their sense of accomplishment and awe as they learn things they never experienced before in nature. Barb could be called our “Snake Lady” as she often educates the general public with her excellent snake programs. When she takes on an assignment she truly digs into the learning and develops an intriguing program that accomplishes her goals of connecting the public to nature. Barb is a retiree from AT&T Microelectronics where she worked in quality engineering. She then became a manager in

high-tech manufacturing. Barb has skills in management and training adults but her work at the nature centers has broadened her scope to include the future citizens—our children.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING JANUARY 23, 2007

Join Barb and the volunteers of the Discovery Center by signing up for the next training. You will not only enjoy the experience of working with MDC staff but you will have the opportunity to expand your knowledge base. The volunteers at the Discovery Center develop friendships and camaraderie based on their commitment to conservation. Don’t miss out on the wonderful opportunities and experiences that you can have as a Discovery Center volunteer. This training will consist of six evenings, January 23 through February 22, from 6 p.m. until 8:30 pm. Sign up with Kathie May at 816-759-7305 ext. 2241 or e-mail Kathleen.May@mdc.mo.gov

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Helene Miller X 2228

WILDLIFE DAMAGE BIOLOGIST
Todd Meese X 2229

COMMUNITY CONSERVATIONIST
Wendy Sangster X 2234
MEDIA SPECIALIST
Gene Fox X 2231
HORTICULTURIST
Matt Bunch X 2264

IT SPECIALIST
Karen Estis X 2242
MAINTENANCE
Blake Asher X 2256
Frank Prescott X 2257
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ENERGY SPECIALIST
Bob Painter X 2263



DISCOVERY CENTER HOURS
MONDAY THRU SATURDAY
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

NATURE’S PALETTE WORKSHOP

A Tree is a Living Thing (Grades K–2) Explore the ways people and wildlife use trees everyday. Inquiry, movement, stories, and drawing lead students to create a wood relief sculpture with recycled wood products.

Tree Trackers: The Art of Trees (Grades 3–8) Examine Missouri trees from an artist’s perspective. Investigate basic tree identification skills. Explore the diversity of our woodlands by studying leaves and different art mediums. Create a nature print composition on the printing press.

Trees of Discovery (Grades 3–8) Trees of the Missouri River valley were an important natural resource to the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Explore ways man and wildlife depend on trees, learn tree identification skills and create a colorful monoprint using real leaves on the printing press.

NATURE’S BOUNTY WORKSHOP

Gearing Up for Fishing (Grades 3–12) Learn about the ecology of Missouri fish including their environment and human effects on it. Try your hand at the fishing simulator, plus examine why fishing regulations and management are needed to maintain this resource. Construct your own lure or bobber to catch “The Big One.”

Bounty of Lewis & Clark (Grades 4–8) Make a quill pen out of turkey feathers and journal with black walnut ink. Make a deer tail paintbrush. Discuss recycling. Learn the importance of the Corps of Discovery’s hunting skills as you sharpen your shooting skills on the Laser Shot simulator.

Wildlife Management in Missouri (Grades 5–12) Use decision-making and problem-solving skills to investigate past, present and future concerns about wildlife. Identify critical issues in the management of an urban deer population. Create a deer tail paintbrush, and journal with a quill pen. Practice ethical hunting decisions on the Laser Shot simulator.

Show Me Mammals (Grades K–2) What is that furry creature? Learn all about Missouri’s fur bearing animals. Play I Spy, make tracks, touch a pelt and seek out habitats of our state’s furry creatures.



In Nature’s Garden, students practice horticulture techniques in the lab, greenhouse and on the Discovery Center grounds by sowing Missouri native plant seeds.

NATURE’S GARDEN WORKSHOP

Needs of Seeds (Grades K–3) Investigate and observe the growth and development of seeds through movement and problem-solving activities that explore the life cycle of plants. Practice horticulture techniques in the lab, greenhouse and on the Discovery Center grounds by sowing Missouri native plant seeds.

Landscape Design with Wildlife in Mind (Grades 4–7) Learn about native plants and their use in landscaping for home, outdoor classrooms, and community projects. Discover the natural landscapes of the Kansas City region and Missouri. Analyze the importance of native plants to wildlife survival. Practice horticultural skills, such as plant propagation and transplanting, that help ensure the success of gardening and landscape design projects.

School programs from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources

How to enroll your class

The Discovery Center is now taking workshop reservations for the winter semester. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources workshops are designed for a minimum of ten to a maximum of 25 students. To participate, a teacher is NOT required to attend an orientation. Here’s what you need to do to enroll:

1. *Examine the workshop offerings at your grade level.*
 2. *Reserve a date for your class.*
- Note:** Workshops for the winter will be available on **Mondays** only. Sessions last for two hours and are available in the morning and afternoon.

Enrollment dates for school groups:
Winter session (December–March) enrollment began November 1. To enroll, contact **Bob Painter** at **816-759-7313 ext. 2263** or **Robert.Painter@dnr.mo.gov**

WINTER 2007 PROGRAMS

Your Source of Energy (Grades 7–12)
Part one: Discover the role the sun plays in providing much of the earth’s energy. Part two: Locate the commercial energy production facilities nearest your school. Explore the energy transmission and transportation systems surrounding your school’s location.

Home Composting Wheel (Grades 1–7)
Learn one way to recycle waste around your home by using a composting wheel. This interactive workshop encourages composting at home.



Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils of Missouri (Grades 4–7)
Discover the variety of rocks, minerals, soils, and fossils found in Missouri. Examine and discuss the differences between igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks, as well as soil samples, and learn about fossils such as crinoids.

Missouri’s Diversity (Grades 4–7)
Investigate the unique location of Missouri and its landscapes, ecosystems, and species. Learn about the diversity of human, cultural, and natural resources found in our state.

Energy Path for a Day (Grades 3–7)
Analyze your activities in a typical day and explore how much energy is required to sustain them. Compare changes in energy use through the years. Discover how your daily routine is dependent on easy access to energy.

Energy Conservation Detective (Grades 5–7)
Learn strategies to reduce energy use in an average American home. Conduct an audit of your own home and look for ways to improve home energy efficiency.

Archaeology and Antiques (Grades 1–7) People have inhabited our land for ages, and they have left traces for us to discover. Are we finding enough traces and interpreting them accurately enough to understand who these people were and how they lived?

Missouri State Symbols (Grades 4–7)
Learn about Missouri’s state symbols. Discover how they developed and what the message behind them is.



Barbara VanVleck

DISCOVERY CENTER

winter calendar

We think you'll be excited about our new and varied offerings this winter at the Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center. Activities marked "*Walk in*" do not require reservations. Those activities that require reservations are marked "*By reservation.*" **Call 816-759-7300.** Space is limited, so register early! Parents or guardians must accompany children under the age of 12.

december

2 LITTLE BLUESTEM BUNDLES
Walk In (All ages) Learn more about this beautiful native prairie grass and the natural community it comes from. Make a bouquet of this copper-colored grass to take home and use as a dry flower arrangement or door ornament.
Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

9 HOLIDAY HARVEST
Walk in (All ages) Enjoy the bounty and beauty of the season by participating in our make-and-take activities. Enjoy the ornaments, crafts, and gifts that display a conservation theme for this holiday event. Take a cold weather hike and look for evidence of holiday visitors, then warm up inside viewing a video of your choice.
Saturday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

16 HYPOTHERMIA: IT AIN'T COOL
Walk in (Ages 10–adult) Learn how, what, and when hypothermia can affect your well-being. Feel the numbness of icy cold water upon your hand, how to dress to help prevent it, and steps to stop it.
Saturday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

16 PRAIRIE HOLIDAY WREATHS
Walk in (All ages) Looking for a way to add a touch of nature to your holiday decorating plans? Create beautiful wreaths and swags using native evergreens, berries and prairie grasses.
Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

16 NATURE PRINTMAKING
Walk in (All ages) Make this holiday season more natural by learning to create gift cards, wrapping paper and other decorations using native plants and grasses.
Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

january

6 WINTER BIRDING
Walk in (All ages) Have you ever made a "life list" of the birds you've spotted in the backyard, at the park, or out of your car window? Winter is a great time to start a new one or add to the one you have! We will go on a short hike on the nature trail and see what avian visitors we can add to your list. Dress for the weather and we'll return to the warm lobby to make a simple hanging feeder and enjoy some hot cocoa.
Saturday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

13 VERTEBRATES 101
Walk In (Ages 8 to adult) Hey city slickers, here's your chance to learn about bat netting, snake wrangling, and other wildlife sports. Explore the world of vertebrates as you participate in activities that demonstrate how these animals are able to move, adapt and change to our environment.
Saturday, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

20 MISSOURI MAMMALS 101
Walk-in (All ages) Missouri is home to many mammals. Find out more about these furry creatures as you look at skulls, touch mammal pelts, and make your very own sawdust clay print. Then plan on attending Mammal Tracking in February to learn more about mammal tracks.
Saturday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

27 WILD WORLD OF WINTER
Walk-in (All ages) Enjoy a day of wild winter events. Winter wildlife, woods, winsome pinecone feeders and wisdom of the outdoors will be the theme for this day of fun-filled winter activities. See promotion on front page.
Saturday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

february

3 JERKY MAKING
Walk-in (All ages) Tired of those holiday "sweet treats." Give your dentist a break by learning how to use your oven or dehydrator to make delicious jerky treats that are good and good for you.
Saturday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

3 FRUIT FILLED FEEDERS
Walk-in (Ages 10 to adults) Our birds are needing your help as the supply of seeds and berries is nearly gone. This time of year is a perfect opportunity to provide our feathered friends with a fruity snack. These easy-to-make and colorful feeders supply valuable nutrients to many birds. Birds that have supplemental feeding will be more likely to withstand harsh winter conditions.
Saturday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

10 RECYCLED FASHIONS
By registration (Ages 10 and up) Learn to crochet a fabric purse or make a felted sweater purse from recycled materials and fabrics.
Saturday, 10 a.m.–12 noon or 1–3 p.m.

10 MAMMAL TRACKING
Walk in (All ages) What a great time of year to be warm-blooded and covered with hair! Missouri has some fascinating furbearers that can be found right here in the city. We'll learn about mammal's special survival skills, touch some real mammal pelts, and solve the mystery of "who was here?" on the tracking blanket.
Saturday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

10 AMAZING BUGS
Walk in (All ages) How do they do that? Monarch butterflies fly thousands of miles to their winter homes. Water striders walk on water. Flies walk up vertical walls. Bees perform an intricate aerial dance to direct their hive mates to good pollen sources. Come join the Bug Lady to enhance your bug lore with a variety of activities that examine insect flight and locomotion.
Saturday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

24 FISHING FRENZY
Walk-in (Ages 10 to adult) With winter fading and spring approaching now is the time to sharpen old fishing skills and learn some new ones. Hands-on activities available on this Fishing Frenzy Day include tying your own jigs and flies, casting skills, fish I.D., knot tying and more. Don't let the big one get away!
Saturday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

24 FISHPRINT T-SHIRTS
Walk-in (Ages 5 to adult) Show off your big catch by wearing it on your chest! Learn about the latest in fishing fashion by creating a hand printed t-shirt with latex molded fish and fabric inks. We'll supply the shirts or bring your own prewashed tee.
Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

march

3 BLUE BIRD HOUSES
By Registration (Ages 10 to adult – only one bird house per family) Bluebirds are year-round residents of Missouri. They are our state bird and deserve the opportunity to live in a home you've constructed. Learn about the construction, placement and care for their new home.
Saturday, 10 a.m.–12 noon or 1 p.m.–3 p.m.

3 DUTCH OVEN COOKING
Walk in (All ages) Learn the many uses of Dutch ovens as you enjoy the culinary delights from "Dutch" Miller. Focus of this program will be on meal preparation and care of your equipment.
Saturday, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

8 ALTERNATIVES TO TROUT PARKS
Walk in (Adults) Missouri's trout parks provide a great trout fishing opportunity to thousands of trout fishermen each year. But Missouri has a host of other trout fishing locations in addition, many of which are just outside the parks. Norm Crisp of Heart of American Fly Fishers and *Streamside Adventures* will talk about these alternatives and provide tips for how to get away from the crowds and have a great trout fishing experience.
Thursday, 7–9 p.m.

10 CRUISE THE CREEK
Walk in (All ages) Bring your bicycle down for a leisure ride along Brush Creek. See what a unique urban trail we have weaving right through this cultural district. We'll ride west through the Kauffman Gardens, Museum Mall, and head towards the Plaza. Here we'll take a moving tour of the creek's history and discuss plans for its' future. Finally, we'll head back towards the Discovery Center for some post-ride refreshments. Meet in the Discovery Center Lobby at 10 a.m. Helmets are required. Total ride is less than five miles.
Saturday, 10 a.m.

10 WHOO'S 4 DINNER?
Walk in (All ages) Back by popular demand! Do you know what your friendly neighborhood predator has been having for dinner? Explore the world of owls as you dissect your way through an owl pellet, discovering what was the prey of the day!
Saturday, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

17 NATIVE GREENS
Walk in (All ages) It is that time of year to work on developing that green thumb. This program will expose you to various native Missouri plants and the benefits of planting them. Enjoy making newspaper pots, planting a colorful container, and more.
Saturday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

17 1/8 CENT NATIVE PLANT SALE
Walk in (All ages) What a bargain! Eight native plant seedlings for a penny. To help illustrate Missouri citizens' contribution to conservation and the conservation sales tax, we're offering a chance to start a native prairie garden for pennies. You can shop for little bluestem, coreopsis or coneflowers.
Saturday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

National Audubon Society

meetings at the Discovery Center

— Public Welcome —

7 P.M. THURSDAY, JANUARY 4
Tropical Birding in Australia
Presented by photographer and Burroughs Member Jack Revare.

7 P.M. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1
Birding in China
Presented by Roger Boyd, Professor of Biology and Director of Natural Areas at Baker University.

24 ARCHERY
Walk in (Ages 11 to adult) Learn how to shoot a bow. Emphasis will be on techniques and safety, weather permitting. Inclement weather plan will be an opportunity to participate in the laser shot programs.
Saturday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

24 WREN HOUSES
By registration (Ages 10 to adult) Nesting time is here and we need to help the friendly wren. Construct a wren house, then learn how to take care of this helpful feathered friend.
Saturday, 9:30–11:30 a.m. and/or 1–3 p.m.

31 DISCOVERY CENTER SPORT SHOW
Walk in (All ages) Spring is here, get out the camping gear and let's go. Oops! Need ideas, places to go, things to do, we have the opportunity for you! Come enjoy a day filled with camping, fishing, hiking, hunting, and trapping activities. Don't miss out on this FREE day of outdoor sporting events. We even have the "Fishin' Magicians" to entertain you with their unique sense of humor and fishing wisdom.
Saturday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

